

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

THE BOUNDARY OF NEW MEXICO.

We yield to a gentleman who was connected with the Mexican Boundary Commission a place for some remarks in reply to the ground assumed in Governor LANE'S proclamation, inserted in this paper some days ago, which we do without at all assuming to understand the official, professional, or scientific question involved in the line agreed on by the Commissioners, or taking any part in that controversy.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 23, 1853.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer:

In your paper of the 23d instant a notice was published of the recent movement of Governor LANE, of New Mexico, in attempting to take possession of a portion of the territory of the State of Chihuahua. By subsequent advice it appears that the Governor has issued a proclamation in which he assumes to "re-take possession of the disputed territory, to be held provisionally by the United States until the question of boundary shall be determined between the United States and the Mexican Republic." It seems that he had called upon the commanding officer of the ninth military department, and also upon the officer in command at Fort Fillmore, (a post within six or eight miles of Mesilla,) to aid him in carrying out his plans; but that these officers declined to have any participation in the matter. He then comes out with his proclamation, on his "own official responsibility, and without orders from the Cabinet at Washington," in which he further declares where his provisional boundary, or rather the initial point, upon the Rio Grande is. In order to show the correctness of these reports, and to indicate in some measure the condition of things in the valley of the Rio Grande, permit me to quote an extract from a letter received yesterday, and written by a highly intelligent officer of the army to a friend in this city, formerly connected with the Boundary Commission. The letter is dated Fort Fillmore, (N. M.) March 23, 1853:

"I now have another history to relate, and a more interesting one to you, as it will bring you back to the scene of your former labors. Governor Lane, of New Mexico, was announced the other day at Doña Ana, and of course we made ready to receive him with 'all the honors.' These he declined, but arrived here the next day, and immediately announced his intention of taking the town of Mesilla, provided Col. Miles would give him the troops. His authority for doing so was the President's message, or rather the message of the late President. Col. Sumner had refused to assist in this enterprise, and had forestalled the Governor by issuing orders that the troops should not move except by his (Col. Sumner's) command. The Governor then said he would have the town; and he would issue his proclamation and raise the militia. He left the next day to consult the Americans at El Paso. I believe he found none that had the same opinions as himself. He returned to this post and addressed a note to Col. Miles, stating that he was sorry that he did not please Col. Sumner and himself, but he did not think that a part of his duty; that he (the Governor) knew what he was about, and had the best legal advice; that the troops, three hundred and fifty in number, were frigidly following their whims five miles of the enemies of their country. He enclosed a copy of his printed proclamation, in which he called upon the United States authorities to seize this place, and notified them that the boundary line is provisionally established at the head of the big Acapiola of El Paso, and would run so-and-so, &c., putting also in brackets that it is without the authority of the President. Who, then, is Governor Lane? What authority has he? He is a man who has been in the United States troops to commence hostilities? The Mexican authorities have sent all the horsemen they can find, and we have now a force of some five hundred armed men in our front. But we are not scared. If the President orders, (and nothing would please us better,) we will take Mesilla and El Paso both, and establish a base line for operations on Chihuahua, as we want law, and the President, and Congress. I am sure we can take Mesilla without much fighting, and El Paso is a 'bonne bouche.'"

The above extract confirms the correctness of the reports which have already reached us. It also shows the principle which has governed the military officers of the ninth department in declining to co-operate with Governor Lane in the acquisition of territory, and it indicates unmistakably the opinions of both the Americans and Mexicans residing in the valley of the Rio Grande.

Allow me, Messrs. Editors, to invite your attention to a brief consideration of one of the positions assumed by Gov. Lane. Whilst it is not admitted that other of his premises are sound, it does not come within the scope of my present purpose to discuss them. The fourth paragraph of the proclamation says:

"The claim of Chihuahua to this disputed territory is believed to be based upon the unwarrantable assumption that the Board of Commissioners had agreed upon a boundary line between Chihuahua and New Mexico, and that their agreement in the premises was binding, both upon the United States and the Mexican Republic, and therefore final; whereas a valid agreement had not been made, and has not yet been made by the United States and the Mexican Republic, and the boundary line is provisionally established at the head of the big Acapiola of El Paso, and would run so-and-so, &c., putting also in brackets that it is without the authority of the President. Who, then, is Governor Lane? What authority has he? He is a man who has been in the United States troops to commence hostilities? The Mexican authorities have sent all the horsemen they can find, and we have now a force of some five hundred armed men in our front. But we are not scared. If the President orders, (and nothing would please us better,) we will take Mesilla and El Paso both, and establish a base line for operations on Chihuahua, as we want law, and the President, and Congress. I am sure we can take Mesilla without much fighting, and El Paso is a 'bonne bouche.'"

In the eighth paragraph it reads:

"I, William Carr Lane, Governor of the Territory of New Mexico, upon my own official responsibility, and without orders from the Cabinet at Washington, do hereby, in behalf of the United States, take possession of the disputed territory, to be held provisionally by the United States until the question of boundary shall be determined between the United States and the Mexican Republic."

The ground taken in the above quoted paragraphs is, that "a valid agreement" upon the position of the initial point of boundary upon the Rio Grande, and the determination of the southern line of New Mexico westwardly, "has not yet been made;" that "the action of the Board has been virtually repudiated and nullified by the United States;" and that "the question of boundary" between the Territory of New Mexico and the State of Chihuahua is not determined.

The questions which I propose to consider are, Has the southern boundary line of New Mexico been determined? and the agreement by which it was determined a valid one? It is manifest that, if a determination has been made strictly in accordance with the terms of the treaty, it must be valid, unless there exists a power competent to annul it. It becomes necessary then to ascertain, 1st, what the precise terms of the treaty are; 2d, if a determination of the boundary has been made conformable thereto; and 3d, what power, if any, can revoke, alter, or annul that determination.

The terms of the treaty, so far as it relates to the southern boundary of New Mexico, are shown in the fifth article, which is as follows, viz:

"Art. 5. The boundary line between the two Republics shall commence in the Gulf of Mexico, three leagues from land, opposite the mouth of the Rio Grande, otherwise called the Rio Bravo del Norte. They shall keep journals, and make out plans of their operations; and the result agreed upon by them shall be deemed a part of this treaty, and shall have the same force as if it were inserted therein."

"The southernmost western limit of New Mexico, mentioned in this article, are those laid down on the map entitled 'Map of the United States, as organized and defined by various acts of the Congress of said Republic, and constructed according to the best authorities. Revised edition.' Published at New York, in 1847, by J. Disturnell."

"In order to designate the boundary line with due precision, upon authoritative maps, and to establish upon the ground landmarks which shall show the limits of both Republics, as described in the present article, the two Governments shall each appoint a commissioner and a surveyor, who, before the expiration of one year from the date of the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty, shall meet at the port of San Diego, and proceed to run and mark the said boundary in its whole course to the mouth of the Rio Bravo del Norte, or opposite the mouth of the Rio Colorado; and the result agreed upon by them shall be deemed a part of this treaty, and shall have the same force as if it were inserted therein."

By this it appears that the southern boundary line of New Mexico "runs north of the town called Paso;" that from the point where it strikes the Rio Grande it runs "westwardly;" and that the southern and western limits of New Mexico are those laid down upon Disturnell's map.

2d. Has a determination of this boundary been made in conformity with these requirements?

The official report of the late Commissioner on the part of the United States to the Department of the Interior shows that a point has been established on the Rio Grande at 32° 22' north latitude, and a recent report of the officer charged with that duty, further shows that the line has been run westwardly "along the whole southern boundary of New Mexico," to wit, three degrees of longitude, or about 175 statute miles, and thence northwardly until it intersects the Gila river. Monuments have been erected at suitable distances along this entire line from the Rio Grande to the Rio Gila. A verification of the correctness of the observations by which the initial point was determined, and of the demarcation of the line thence westwardly and northwardly to the Gila, is had in the entire agreement of the results obtained by the astronomers and surveyors of the two commissions. It remains, then, to show that the line, as agreed upon, run, and marked, is in strict conformity with the treaty. That instrument states that line "runs north of the town called Paso." The starting point of the line is at 32° 22' of north latitude, and runs thence westwardly. El Paso is situated in 31° 45' north latitude, or about 57° due south of the line. The terms of the treaty are thus strictly complied with, as the line is about 42 miles "north of the town called Paso." The treaty further requires that the line shall extend "westwardly along the whole southern boundary of New Mexico;" and that "the southern and western limits of New Mexico are those laid down upon a map of the United Mexican States, made by J. Disturnell, &c. Has the line which has been agreed upon, run, and marked, been made in conformity with these requirements of the treaty? An accurate measurement of the distance between the 32° parallel of north latitude and the southern boundary of New Mexico, as the same are "laid down on Disturnell's map, shows 22° of arc; and the length of the "whole southern boundary of New Mexico," as also "laid down on said map, is 3°, or about 175 statute miles. The determination of the initial point, then, at 22° of arc north of the 32° parallel, or in 32° 22' north latitude, and the extension of the southern line of New Mexico 3° northwardly from the Rio Grande, are strictly and literally in conformity with the requirements of the treaty; and the execution of the work upon the ground accords with entire precision with the position and distances "laid down on Disturnell's map."

But it is said that the distance of the southern boundary of New Mexico should have been measured from El Paso, as they are respectively "laid down on Disturnell's map, and that the line should have been established on the ground at precisely this distance north of the town. This is obviously an error, for the simple and conclusive reason that El Paso is incorrectly laid down upon the map. Its position, as there represented, does not agree with its known position upon the ground. It is immaterial whether this fact was or was not known to the commissioners who formed the treaty. But the Commissioners of the two Governments, appointed to run and mark the boundary line, must follow strictly the expressed terms of the treaty, and the Governments themselves must abide by those terms. Supposing that Mr. Trist, the American Commissioner, had obtained the assent of the Mexican Government to the project submitted by him, under the direction of Mr. Buchanan, of the 32d parallel as the boundary, all parties being then of the opinion that the boundary would place the town of El Paso within the limits of the United States—when the astronomers should have ascertained the position of 32d parallel upon the ground, and that El Paso lay south of it instead of north, could the United States make any just claim of the town? Manifestly not. They were deceived by an error in the map, but, having adopted it, must abide the consequences of that error. So also with those who have been led to suppose that El Paso is within eight miles of the southern boundary of New Mexico. They have been deceived by an error in Disturnell's map. If the map referred to in the treaty furnished no other means of establishing the southern boundary line of New Mexico than by reference to the erroneously located town of El Paso, then undoubtedly it would have been proper to assume that town as the starting point. But so long as the map does enable us to determine the boundary, with almost entire accuracy, (which could not be done by measuring from El Paso,) then common sense, common honesty, and simple justice dictate that we should not expressly seek out the errors upon it in order to be benefited by them.

Inasmuch as it has been shown that the establishment of the initial point on the Rio Grande at 32° 22' north latitude, and the western extension of the line from that point, are in precise conformity with Disturnell's map, and as the southern line of New Mexico—as agreed upon, run, and marked—does run north of the town called Paso, as the treaty requires, it remains only to show that the action of the two Commissioners and Surveyor has not been invalidated by any informality, or "repudiated" by the Government, as alleged in Governor Lane's proclamation. The clause in the treaty which refers to this subject is as follows, viz:

"In order to designate the boundary line with due precision, upon authoritative maps, and to establish upon the ground landmarks which shall show the limits of both Republics, as described in the present article, the two Governments shall each appoint a commissioner and a surveyor, who, before the expiration of one year from the date of exchange of ratifications of this treaty, shall meet at the port of San Diego, and proceed to run and mark the said boundary in its whole course to the mouth of the Rio Bravo del Norte. They shall keep journals and make out plans of their operations; and the result agreed upon by them shall be deemed a part of this treaty, and shall have the same force as if it were inserted therein."

"The boundary line established by this article shall be religiously respected by each of the two Republics, and no change shall ever be made therein, except by the express and free consent of both nations, lawfully given by the General Government of each, in conformity with its own Constitution."

It is not necessary to give the details of the organization and operations of the respective Commissions, as the only argument put forward upon which the determination of the initial point is claimed to be invalid is, that the record was not signed or approved by Mr. GRAY, the Surveyor.

The Joint Commission, having completed their labors upon the Pacific coast, adjourned to meet again at El Paso on the first day of November, 1850. At the appointed time the American and Mexican Commissioners and the Mexican Surveyor convened, and entered upon the consideration of the southern boundary of New Mexico. After a very full investigation of all the points in the case, and lengthened discussions of their merits, the two Commissioners agreed upon 32° 22' of north latitude as the point where the Rio Grande strikes the southern boundary of New Mexico, according to Disturnell's map. They directed the astronomers of the respective commissions to proceed to establish that point upon the ground. The results, after several hundred observations, agreed with all mathematical exactness. At length every thing was in readiness for marking the spot, by the erection of a monument, with suitable ceremonies. Mr. GRAY, the Surveyor, was still absent, and nothing was known of his residence or place of sojourn. To obviate the difficulties attending any further delay in prosecuting the work, Mr. BARTLETT, the American Commissioner, with the written consent of the Mexican Commissioner, appointed J. A. W. WHIPPLE as Acting Surveyor, who participated in the ceremonies of establishing the initial point monument, and authenticated the records by his official signature. The proceedings were strongly confirmed by the opinion of the late distinguished Secretary of State, than whom no more profound legal mind existed in the country.

About eight months from the time appointed for the meeting of the joint commission, (to wit, in July, 1851,) Mr. GRAY reached the field of operations, and immediately superseded Lieut. Whipple in his functions as Surveyor. He then protested against the line agreed upon in joint

commission, and his protest was forwarded to Washington. Again the Executive Government confirmed the action of Mr. Bartlett in the premises. An attempt was made in Congress in August last to arrest the work upon this line by withholding appropriations for its continuance; but even this failed to accomplish the object, as the work was completed, the line run and marked from the Rio Grande to the Rio Gila, before intelligence of the want of an appropriation reached the party engaged in its execution. Lieut. Whipple (the officer in charge of that party) has returned to Washington within a few days past, and reports the line finished. The line, then, has become a fixed fact, a finality, and is unquestionably placed within the meaning of the paragraph of the treaty above quoted, which says that "the result agreed upon by them shall be deemed a part of this treaty, and shall have the same force as if it were inserted therein."

3d. What power (if any) can revoke, alter, or annul the determination of the Board of Commissioners?

The Governments of the two Republics are respectively bound by the terms of the treaty itself "religiously" to respect the boundary line thus established, which instrument further sets forth that "no change shall ever be made therein, except by the express and free consent of both nations, lawfully given by the General Government of each, in conformity with its own Constitution." The boundary having been made "a part of the treaty," neither Government has any more power to alter it than it has to alter any other provision of that instrument without the "express and free consent" of the other. And if the Government of the United States has no authority to change the boundary as established in precise conformity with the treaty and the treaty map, how much less has a subordinate officer of the Government! Although Governor Lane expressly states that this step is taken "without orders from the Cabinet at Washington," and on his "own official responsibility," yet he declares that he is acting under the "best legal advice." Of course, it is impossible to know who the Governor's legal advisers are, but it seems very plain that they have conceived a scheme which, if sustained by our Government, is certain to involve us in another war with Mexico. The pretence that the Mexican authorities have evinced in sending troops into the Mesilla valley shows very clearly the spirit with which this aggression on their rights will be met.

No "express and free consent" is shown on their part to this attempt to change the legally established boundary. The act of Governor Lane can only be characterized as an unlawful, unjust, and highly reprehensible effort to acquire more of the covered Mexican territory. It is "egregious" in its wrong phase; and it is to be hoped that our sense of international comity and justice will be shown to the world by a prompt and decided rebuke from the authorities now in power. J. B.

FOREIGN DRY GOODS.

By our customary monthly tables, showing the importations of foreign dry goods into New York during the month of April, 1850, '51, '52, and '53, it will be seen that the importations for the present year largely exceed any former period, being no less than \$80,751,923 during the last four months, against \$19,839,177 for the corresponding period last year, and \$4,789,831 for the past month, against \$2,582,408 in April, 1852.

It will be seen that the increase is greatest in silk goods, being more than one hundred per cent. on the importations of April last. The importation of woollen goods for the month exceeds that of last year one hundred per cent.; cotton goods more than fifty per cent.; flax thirty per cent.

These statements will strike many of our readers with surprise, as showing the enormous outlay by our people for the more costly manufactures of England and the Continent. We are no longer contented with the cotton goods, de laines, and other manufactures, which, in by-gone years, were thought good enough for consumption among the States. These official tables exhibit no less than eleven millions of dollars' worth of silks alone brought into our port during the last four months; seven millions and upwards in woollen goods, over six millions in cottons, and a general aggregate of more than thirty millions in value.

This, be it remembered, when money has been in actual demand at nine to eighteen per cent. per annum, for weeks in succession, on the best paper that could be produced. The dry goods business during the present season has been more active than at any former period, and the market is nearly bare of the various descriptions of French and British goods, the prices of which are fully sustained.

The amount of duties collected at this port is very large for the present month. The Subtreasury at New York looks upwards of \$6,800,000, and the whole sum is deposited at the various offices at the last official report was above \$10,000,000.

The receipts of duties at this port, against the quarter ending 31st March, were \$28,023,065, against \$22,227,197 for the same period of last year.

There is a constant tendency to overtrading. It is very clear that the increase in our foreign importations is more than commensurate with the growth of population and growth of capital, and that more caution must be observed in order to maintain more soundness in our business affairs.—New York Courier.

THE PACIFIC SURVEYING EXPEDITION.

The vessels of this squadron are now nearly ready for sea, and were to have sailed yesterday from New York for Norfolk, where they will take on board a number of instruments, imported to that place direct from Liverpool, and which are of too delicate a nature to admit of land carriage.

The Expedition, which will probably be absent about three years, is organized with an efficient scientific corps. It will explore as minutely as possible the coasts of Asia and America bordering on the Northern Pacific and Behring's Straits. The survey will also embrace the Japan Islands and seas, the Gulf of Tartary, the seas of Kamtschatka and Okhotsk, and all the islands lying therein, or adjacent thereto, including the Aleutian and Sandwich Islands, &c.

The Governor, Executive Council, and many Senators and Representatives of the Legislature of Massachusetts have subscribed one day's pay to aid in the completion of the National Monument in this city.

Fourteen slaughter-houses, all in a row, on 50th street, New York, were accidentally burnt on Thursday morning.

It has been said that if the officers of the railroads were made to go with the trains accidents would never happen; but, like many other assertions, the saying is fallacious. On the Cleveland and Pittsburgh road, on Saturday, an accident occurred, by running over a cow, and the president of the road, Mr. Cyrus Prentiss, who was with the train, was badly hurt. The remedy of putting a railroad driver in the front car as a preventive of accidents will not answer.—Public Ledger.

GOLD DOLLAR TEST.—Dr. GIBSON B. SMITH, of Baltimore, has invented a very ingenious contrivance for detecting spurious coins of the gold dollar stamp. It is a small box with a slit in the lid, which will admit the genuine coin only. If a spurious coin passes through the slit, it will not sink, because it is resisted by a weight inside, superior to the leverage by which the true coin overcomes the weight. And if the spurious coin is made so large that its weight equals the true coin, it will not pass through the aperture. The article might be made to sell at a low price, and thus come into general use.—Sun.

A SMART APRIL FOOL.—Among the many attempts to play practical jokes upon the "green" ones on the first of April, that of a lady, who has ever been heard of, was this: She procured from a marble yard several pieces of beautiful white marble, and breaking them into nice lumps, put them into the sugar bowls. The counterfeits were complete, no unsuspecting persons could have detected the fraud. Soon supper was ready; the tea was poured and the sugar bowls were passed around the table. Everybody took one, two, or three lumps, according to their liking. Then followed a general tasting and stirring all around the table: nobody's tea was sweet enough, and the sugar refused to melt. They ground their spoons against it, and stirred and stirred again, but it was no go. The sugar proved to be marble, and they, for once, proved to be April fools. Charleston (S. C.) Standard.

THE SANDWICH ISLANDS AND FRANCE.

The telegraphic report that the Providence Journal had official information that the Government of the Sandwich Islands had applied to the Government of the United States for protection against further encroachments by France is not justified by the article in the Journal. In the first place, the information is stated to be contained in "private letters of recent date from Peru," and so is not official, but is somewhat vague and indefinite; and in the second place, although the article grounded upon the contents of these "private letters of recent date from Peru" appears in the editorial column, and the impersonal "we" is employed throughout, it is not editorial, a distinction which the telegraphic report seems either not to have noticed or not to have understood—not the first instance of the kind on the part of gentlemen of that profession. The respectability of the Providence Journal, and the care and candor with which it is conducted, would have given importance to the inferences drawn from the alleged information had the editor of the Journal chosen to assume the responsibility of them. But he has been careful to avoid doing so, and the statements and conclusions rest solely upon the authority of a nameless contributor, which is quite a different thing from being editorially uttered. We do not suppose that any new difficulty has arisen, and still less do we suppose that France contemplates any interference with the sovereignty of the Sandwich Islands. Every thing indicates to the contrary. The United States and Great Britain and France are alike interested in upholding the sovereignty of that group, for the good reason that each well knows that the other two would pervert it of appropriation by itself of those islands.

[New York Commercial Advertiser.]

THE MEXICAN TREATY.—The treaty negotiated between JOHN C. CALHOUN and the Mexican Commissioners, and ratified by Gen. LOUGHRAN, the provisional President of Mexico, provides mainly for the joint guarantee, by Mexico and the United States, of the neutrality of any road or canal that may be made across the isthmus of Tehuantepec. The subordinate provisions are, that in time of war no articles contraband of war shall be transported across the isthmus; that no vessels of either party shall, in case of war between the parties, be captured within fifty miles of the terminus of the road or canal; that no foreign country shall have any privileges in regard to the transit superior to those of the United States; and that all nations that shall by treaty agree to protect the neutrality of the transit shall have the use of it on the same terms. These are supposed to be the principal provisions.—Mobile Register.

The anniversary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions was held in New York on Sunday evening. The Secretary's report shows that with a diminished collecting agency the receipts of the Board have from all sources been over \$8,000 in advance of the receipts of last year. The sum of \$153,222 is acknowledged in the treasurer's report. The expenditures have been slightly less than the receipts.

A company has been organized to construct a railway, commencing at Solus Bay, on Lake Ontario, and running southwardly towards Elmira. This (says the Baltimore American) is another link in the chain which is to bring Baltimore, by way of the Susquehanna Valley, in direct connexion with Lake Ontario.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION commenced its annual session yesterday at New York. Some three or four hundred Delegates are in attendance. Dr. BEVERLY R. WELFORD, of Fredericksburg, (Va.) was chosen President pro tem. Extensive arrangements have been made by the physicians of New York for the entertainment of the delegates. They are to-day to partake of a grand dinner at Metropolitan Hall, and to-morrow make an excursion to all the hospitals and other public institutions belonging to the city.

The town of Terre Haute, in Indiana, was visited on the evening of the 23d ultimo by a terrific storm of wind, hail, rain, thunder, and lightning. Mr. Thompson's new steam mill was stripped of a large part of its tin covering, so also the new grocery house of Bement & Co. Three new frame buildings and some other tenements were blown down, and many houses were more or less injured. The greatest damage, however, was done to Mr. Jewett's Congregationalist Church. The sexton was ringing the bell at the time, for assembling the congregation, when the cupola was blown over, and falling on the roof broke its way through to the pews below, making a sad wreck of nearly the whole building. The base of the cupola, with the bell, part of the roof, bricks, plastering, lathes, timbers, &c., were lying in the centre of the church on Sunday morning, while the spire had turned a corner, and laid upon the ground at the east end of the building. The northern wall is too badly bent and shattered to repair. The sexton escaped with only a bruised and contused head. It was a great fortune that the congregation had not yet assembled at the church.

ARTICLES FOR THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—A letter from Genoa to the Newark Advertiser states that Sardinia, and in fact all Italy, will be better represented in the Crystal Palace Exhibition in New York than in London. The fine Sardinian barque Maria Eugenia, Capt. Colombi, has sailed from Genoa with some fifty tons of the finest specimens of Sardinian art and industry, and another vessel is now receiving a larger quantity for the same destination, valued at some 500,000 francs.

RAILROAD STOCK.—It is stated that the reports of the earnings of fourteen railroads, taken indiscriminately from Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Indiana, and Georgia, show a universal increase in March ranging from 11 to 100 per cent., and in one or two instances to about 150 per cent. This indicates not only a flourishing condition of the country, but in the state of the pockets of the people who have the luck to possess shares in the iron tracks.

Mr. WM. B. SLACK, most favorably known as one of the conductors of the Washington branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, has resigned that situation, and he has held with such general acceptance for a period of nineteen years. Mr. SLACK was one of the most faithful officers of the company, and retires with the view of conducting an extensive coal business.—Sun.

SEA BATHING IN PARIS.—A project is on foot in Paris which has for its object to give to the Parisians the refreshment of sea bathing in the central part of the city. By the process of a hydraulic machine, placed on the still waters of Dieppe, the waters of the channel would be thrown into large pipes, which would carry it to Paris and into a large basin placed in the centre of the Park of Monceaux. The expenditure is calculated at five or six millions of francs. The railway company from Dieppe to Paris has granted the privilege of laying the pipes all along the road, and the Government has given to the undertaking the free use of the Park of Monceaux.

NAVAL.—The Navy Department have recently heard from the Mediterranean squadron, Commodore STRAIGHT. His advice from that quarter are up to the 7th ultimo, when all were well. Part of the squadron were off the coast of Egypt, the rest being off the Italian coast. From Commodore PENNY they have letters to the 10th of March, when he was, with the Mississippi steamer, at Cayen, being about to sail for Macao. As far as he was advised at that date, all was well in the East India squadron also.

The frigate Congress and sloop-of-war Jamestown are soon expected home from the Brazil station, and the brig Bainbridge from the coast of Africa. The frigate Savannah will relieve the Congress. Commodore SALTERS will take the command of the squadron.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND SEAL FISHERY.—The prospects of this fishery, which at one time were so flattering, have been suddenly reversed. Several letters from St. Johns concur in this opinion. One says: "Our seal fishery opened very well, but unfortunately a large catch has been confined to a few vessels. We now anticipate a miserable voyage, and suppose the first fifty vessels will have more seals than the remaining three hundred and fifty to be accounted for."

Charleston (S. C.) Standard.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

We have already mentioned that this association commenced its annual session in the city of New York on Tuesday, Dr. BEVERLY R. WELFORD, of Virginia, presiding.

The Treasurer reported that his receipts during the past year had been only \$1,000, while the expenditures amounted to \$2,015, showing a deficiency of \$1,015. The committee on publication reported that they were not supplied with means adequate to the proper conduct of their department, and recommended that the assessment for the next year should be \$5 per member. It was said in this connection that the illustrations alone of one of the papers to be presented would cost \$1,000.

Dr. WELFORD delivered the annual address, in the course of which he urged the necessity of more rigid examination of domestic and imported drugs, and recommended the establishment of a medical board of law in each State, with exclusive power to grant licenses to practice.

The following officers for the ensuing year were unanimously elected:

President—JONATHAN KNIGHT, of Connecticut.
Vice Presidents—USHER PARSONS, of Rhode Island; LEWIS COLEMAN, of New Jersey; HENRY R. FROST, of South Carolina; R. L. HOWARD, of Ohio.
Secretaries—EDWARD L. BEDELL, of New York; EDWIN L. LEMMONS, of Missouri.
Treasurer—FRANKLIN COCHRAN, of Pennsylvania.

Being conducted to the chair, Dr. KNIGHT expressed his acknowledgments of the honor conferred upon him, and a vote of thanks was passed to the retiring president for the courtesy and efficiency with which he had performed his official duties.

Dr. HAYES read a paper from the Medical Association of Virginia, enclosing a copy of a resolution passed at their last meeting, to the effect "that the American Medical Association be recommended to employ an able chemist to analyze the different nostrums of the day, and that he be directed to publish the result monthly in a newspaper enjoying the largest circulation in each State."

Dr. EXNER presented an abstract of his report on the influence of radiation in producing disease.

Dr. CASPER, offered a verbal statement of his report on typhoid fever, and a report on the epidemics of Tennessee and Kentucky was given by Dr. W. L. SURTOS, of the latter State.

Dr. Z. PITCHER read a report on the state of medical education, urging a more thorough acquaintance with the natural sciences previous to clinical instruction.

Dr. SMITH, chairman of the committee on volunteer communications, stated that fifteen essays had been received, twelve of them with the authors' names in sealed envelopes. The two deemed worthy of the prizes offered were then announced to be, one entitled "The Cell; Its Physiology, Pathology, and Philosophy," by WALDO J. BURNETT, M.D., Boston; and another on "The Treatment of Certain Fibroid Diseases of the Uterus," by WASHINGTON D. DE LEE, Philadelphia.

The Association has resolved to hold its next annual meeting at St. Louis, Missouri.

On Tuesday evening the members of the association were present by invitation at the elegant mansion of the Hon. HAMILTON FISH. The Commercial Advertiser says:

"It was a most agreeable reunion, the pleasure of the evening being enhanced by the hearty hospitality of the honorable Senator. The members of the association were justly appreciated the attention shown them, and animated and interesting conversation was sustained throughout. General SCOTT was also among the Senator's guests, and appeared in excellent health and spirits, greeting many old friends among the visitors with a very cordial frankness and ardor. Altogether the guests greatly enjoyed the interview, which will be one of the most agreeable reminiscences of the visit of the members of the association to the Empire City."

THE CIVILIZATION OF AFRICA.

There is no greater problem of this age than the civilization of Africa. There is no more wonderful illustration of the ways of Divine Providence, and of the progress of the human race, through error, and folly, and sin, to certain and enduring good. The unbounded resources of Africa, which have slept undeveloped since the creation, are about to yield to the touch of commerce and civilization. The tribes whose native and inherited barbarism has been growing darker and apparently more hopeless through long ages of ignorance and brutality, are slowly preparing to take a place among the nations. The time is approaching, and it is approaching more rapidly than such revolutions are generally made, when the commercial nations shall compete for the trade with Africa, and when the stimulus which this will give to its production shall develop the resources of the country, and shall establish a regular industry, and, consequently, pushing to the interior all the results of trade, commerce, and intelligent industry will gradually follow. This, and this alone, will be the means of putting an end to the slave trade. Armies cannot do it, fleets cannot do it. Treaties and compacts are in vain to enforce it. Commerce and civilization alone can fix the limits of this great reproach of the age. When the Eastern coast of Africa is in the hands of civilized christian government, or within its control, the infamous traffic will be suppressed, but not before. No more worthy work can employ the attention of philanthropists than the colonization of Africa. We trust that it will receive every encouragement from our Government, and that on some plan, under the protection of the Government, regular steam communication may be established between this country and Liberia. We owe much to Africa, and it is in this way that we can best discharge the debt that has been accumulating for centuries.—Providence Journal.

THE FREE BANKING LAW of New Jersey does not appear to work well. The Bank Commissioners of the State report that of the twenty-one associations organized under the general banking law only four are bona fide concerns, viz: Bordentown Bank, at Bordentown; Newark City Bank, at Newark; Hudson County Bank, at Jersey City; and Central Bank, at Hightstown. These four institutions have each a regular banking house, and pursue the business of banking within the true intent and meaning of the law, and afford facilities to the communities in which they are located. Of the other seventeen, the commissioners state that only three have partially complied with the law, by having an office, a clerk, and by making occasionally a discount, but beyond that no regular banking business is done by either. Fifteen of them have given notice of their intention to close their affairs.

PICKING THE EAR.—A horrible death recently occurred in Paris from a common practice with many persons. A gentleman, feeling a slight itching in his ear, took up a friction match in order to dip it in. In the ardor of a conversation he was sustaining he introduced the sulphurous end, the contact soon produced ignition, and the downward lining of the ear caught fire; a portion of the sulphur adhered to the flesh, and burnt there persistently. The unfortunate man never spoke again. His sufferings were so agonizing that his tongue became powerless; and, after two days' torment and unavailing efforts of the surgeons, he died.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE LADIES.—The Centreville (Md.) Times publishes a letter written by the Hon. Thomas Beddingfield Hands, in 1764, to a relation in England, from which we make the following extract, as showing the fashions of those days. The letter is dated "Chester, in Maryland, November 12, 1764," and, after a reference to family affairs, says:

"Maryland is not the Maryland that it was when I first arrived here. Letters and science, politeness and luxury are abundantly seen in our manners, buildings, equipage, furniture, plate, dress, &c. In our dress we run the risk which you ladies set us. My daughters now take seven yards of three-quarter mottos silk, and twenty-three yards of satin or taffety, to make them a robe. [It only takes forty now, after a progress of ninety years.] Whereas a little more than half this quantity did us to serve their lady excellent mother. When the gowns come home I find my silk cut into rags, by flourishing, scolding, pinning, and I know not what. And when I begin to complain—'O my dear sir!—upon my word, Papa, this is the fashion.' And Mistress Sitch-away never fails to second them. And I must return to my easy chair, and say no more."

A Frenchman thinks the English language is very tough. "Dure is look-out," he says, "which is to put out your head and neck; and look-out, which is to haul in your head not to see—just contrary."

THE ATMOSPHERIC TELEGRAPH.

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, APRIL 25, 1853.

GENTLEMEN: Being personally a stranger to you, though for a long time a subscriber to and a constant reader of the Intelligencer, I feel some delicacy in asking a place in the columns